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○ ISSUE 25 | ○ VOLUME 5

Community *notes*

All Hallows' Eve Fun

Howard County offers family friendly fun for Halloween. Check out a few of the events happening this week:

The Mall in Columbia's Halloween Celebration

Join The Mall in Columbia and Miss Julie for a fun kid-friendly Halloween celebration during Family Fun Day on Thursday, October 30 at 10:00 a.m. "Turner" Dean of Magic will perform a special Halloween-themed magic show. Of course, we'll have candy for the kids and other fun surprises! All are encouraged to wear their Halloween costumes.

Trick or Treat on Main Street, Ellicott City Friday, October 31: 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

All little ghouls, goblins, princesses, superheroes and their parents are welcomed by the businesses on Main Street for this annual event! Visit Tourism's [website](#) for more information.

Trick-or-Treat at The Mall in Columbia Friday, October 31: 6:00 p.m.

On Halloween night the retailers at The Mall in Columbia will offer candy for trick-or-treating. Please note that there is no mall-wide trick-or-treating; store participation will vary. Visit the [The Mall's website](#) for the store list.

The Corn Maze at Larriland Farm

The Straw Maze, built with over 1000 bales of straw, is a delightful place to get lost. The Straw Maze is open every day the farm is open in October. The Boo Barn is for children ages 4 – 6. It is a dark passage in the bottom of the Red Barn and is filled with animated, not too scary ghosts and goblins. The Boo Barn is open every day the farm is open in October. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Greeting

Halloween was always my children's favorite holiday. Dressing up, being outdoors after dark, knocking on neighbors doors created a night of magic. The tradition and the fun continue this week.

Smaykey

Fall Back This Sunday

Daylight Savings Time ends this Sunday, November 2 at 2:00 a.m. Remember to change your clocks and your smoke alarm batteries. Howard County Fire and Rescue Services reminds residents to check their carbon dioxide detectors as well.

Fire and Rescue Services shares these important safety tips: (1) interconnect all smoke alarms throughout your home so that when one sounds, they all sound; (2) replace the entire alarm if it's more than 10 years old or doesn't work properly when tested; (3) remember the new state law requires a 10-year lifespan smoke alarm which contains a 10-year, sealed-in battery.; (4) dust or vacuum alarms when you change the batteries; and (5) prepare and practice two escape plans so that you and your loved ones can get out of your home safely in the event of a fire. Meet in a place a safe distance from the fire and where first responders can easily see you.

Cast Your Vote!

Early Voting concludes on Thursday, October 30. Cast your vote today or tomorrow from 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Miller Library Branch, The Bain Center and Ridgely's Run Community Center. On General Election Day, Tuesday, November 4, visit your polling location between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. to vote. Have questions? Contact the Howard County Board of Election at 410-313-5820 or visit their [website](#).

A "Spooktacular" Holiday

Get into the spirit (pun intended) with fun events for Halloween!

Ghost Tours

A Howard County tradition, [Howard County Tourism & Promotion](#) hosts guided tours through one of the most actively haunted towns on the east coast. Guides recount tales of recent paranormal events at many locations in the Ellicott City Historic District; so many in fact that two separate tours are offered, "Ye Haunted History of Olde Ellicott City" Ghost Tour Part I & II. The ghost tours are renowned for their uncanny and unearthly fun! There are spots available for Friday and Saturday evening, October 31 and November 1. Call 410-313-1900 to reserve your place today.



Haunted Experience at Rockburn Branch Park

Friday, October 31: 7:00 p.m.

Ever wonder what may happen at a park, after dark, on Halloween? Well, you're invited to join the fun... Tickets are \$10 per person (cash only) and available at the door (6145 Montgomery Road, Elkridge).

Zombie Bash

Roger Carter Community Center, 3000 Milltowne Road, Ellicott City

Friday, October 31: 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Teens (ages 11-16) can join their friends and the 'undead' for a fun, monster-themed party. There will be music, Glow Light Dance, costume contest, Xbox tournament and much more. Tickets are \$5 in advance ([register online](#)) or \$9 at the door.

Clark's Elloak Farm Pumpkin Chucking Weekend

Saturday - Sunday, November 1-2

In the spirit of the season, have some special fun with pumpkins! Clark's has a special catapult that will launch your pumpkin across the farm. Bring your own pumpkin and let's see how far it will go! Enjoy food by C.J.'s Pit Beef. 410-730-4049. 10500 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD, 21042. Visit www.clarklandfarm.com for the details.

Pumpkin Chuckin' at Robinson Nature Center

Sunday, November 2: 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

All ages. Watch as local high school STEM clubs compete using catapults they designed to launch old pumpkins towards targets in the woods. No registration necessary to watch. To enter a team, visit the [webpage](#).



Volunteers Needed for Tree Planting

The Patapsco Heritage Greenway will plant 50 new trees that are approximately 5-6 feet tall to expand the existing forest area close to Lost Lake in the Avalon Area of Patapsco Valley State Park. Their volunteers will do everything possible to make sure these trees grow, from digging holes to placing wooden stakes and fencing around them, as well as adding root enhancer and mulch! Volunteer pre-registration is required to have an adequate quantity of supplies and to recruit the needed PHG stream team members to properly manage this event.

Join the team on Saturday, November 1 - rain or shine – 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (or as long as it takes to plant the trees) at Patapsco State Park, Avalon Area of Patapsco State Park near Lost Lake off Glen Arney Road in Relay. Volunteers must pre-register no later than Friday, October 31 to be on the volunteer list to get free entrance into the park. Visit <http://www.patapscoheritagegreenway.org/eventcal.html> and use the link, "Click here", located on the top of the page to register.

New Art Exhibit in Oakland Mills

The Meeting House Gallery presents its holiday exhibit, "Unity Through Diversity". It features the works of: Forest Arnold, Linda Baer, Peter Barbernitz, Barbara Bednarzik, Ron Berkowitz, Stuart Berlin, Dan Brown, Laurie Bulka, Rebecca Canfield, Dan Cohen, Susan Cohen, Gerald Greenbaum, Beryl Little, Sue Nicholson, Linda Pescarmona, Barb Siskind, Etarae Weinstein, Jerry Weinstein, Jeff Zaller, and Roslyn Zinner. The exhibit runs until January 3, 2015. The community is invited to the Meet The Artist Reception on Sunday, November 2 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. The Meeting House Gallery is located in The Oakland Mills Interfaith Center at 5885 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia, MD and is open from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. The gallery is free.

It's An Autumn Festival of Fun

The Maple Lawn Maryland Business Association is hosting its inaugural Maple Lawn Autumn Harvest Music Festival on Saturday, November 1 behind Looney's Pub (8180 Maple Lawn Boulevard).



The festival, beginning at 1:00 p.m., features music by Taylor and Evan and 5am, delicious food and a beer garden (open to adults 21 and over).

Prior to the kick-off for the the festival, kids (ages 10 and under) are welcome to Maple Lawn retailers for trick or treating from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

GEN SILENT Documentary Presentations

PFLAG Columbia -Howard County and LGBT Older Adult Task Force of Howard County will host SAGE Metro DC in two free showings of the critically acclaimed documentary, *GEN SILENT*. This film shares the stories of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender older adults who are "so afraid of discrimination by caregivers or bullying by other seniors that many simply go back into the closet."

A discussion by Dr. Imani Woody, Chair of SAGE Metro DC will accompany the film showing on Saturday, November 8, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. at the Owen Brown Interfaith Center and on Thursday, November 20, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at The Bain Center. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Sue Garner at sueginna@gmail.com.

MLK Commission Essay Contest

Howard County's Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission invites students to participate in its 2014-2015 essay contest: The Fierce Urgency of Now.

Essay Question:

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is 'What are you doing for others?'"

Consider a time when you aided or helped someone.
Relate your essay to the work of Dr. King.

Contest Rules:

Must be Howard County residents in either middle school or high school.

Essays must be typed and double-spaced and include the student's name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, school and grade.

Essays must be individually submitted.

Winners will be notified by email.

Middle school essays are to be 500 to 750 words in length; whereas, high school essays must be 750 to 1,000 words long.

Essays will be judged on content, spelling and sentence structure.

Students with disabilities may submit entries that address the topic through other media (posters, pictures, etc.)

Prizes range from \$300 - \$150 per award.

Deadline: Essays must be postmarked or delivered by 5:00 p.m., **Wednesday, November 5, 2014** to MLK Student Essay Contest, c/o Howard County Office of Human Rights, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 239, Columbia, MD 21046 or email: SubmissionsMLK@howardcountymd.gov. Please refer your questions to Mary Toth at the Office of Human Rights, 410.313.6467 or email: mtoth@howardcountymd.gov.

Thanksgiving Celebration!

The Howard County Office on Aging invites you to a Thanksgiving Celebration on Thursday, November 13, at Ten Oaks Ballroom, 5000 Signal Bell Lane in Clarksville. The *Giving Thanks Luncheon and Dance* will feature a festive meal with turkey and all the trimmings, plus a special performance by the Retro Rockets.

Doors open at 10:30 a.m. and lunch is served at 12 noon. Tickets are \$13 per person, and are on sale now at [Howard County Senior Centers](#). Attendees are asked to bring non-perishable food items to be donated to the Howard County Food Bank.

Great Pumpkin!

Pumpkins are more than just fall décor. Pumpkin can be prepared in a variety of ways from breakfast to dinner, and are a good source of potassium and vitamin C, and an excellent source of vitamin A. Its orange flesh has a mild, sweet flavor and the roasted seeds taste delicately nutty. In general, the flesh from smaller pumpkins will be more tender and juicy than larger ones. Choose pumpkins that do not have blemishes and store whole pumpkins in a cool, dark place for up to two months.

Here are just a few examples of how you can add pumpkin to your plate:

- Blend a pumpkin smoothie. Whirl pumpkin, fat-free milk, frozen vanilla yogurt, a dash of pumpkin pie spice or cinnamon in a blender.
- Add fresh cooked or canned pumpkin to your favorite pancake batter (or oatmeal).
- Use ¼ cup of canned pumpkin in place of one egg in baked breads and muffins.
- Cook mashed pumpkin with fat-free and low-sodium chicken broth, evaporated fat-free milk, nutmeg, onion and other spices for pumpkin soup. Serve in a cleaned out pumpkin for a seasonal touch.
- Make homemade ravioli with a stuffing of canned pumpkin and fresh grated Parmesan cheese.

For more information on pumpkins and other staples of the season, click [here](#). **Source: Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, www.eatright.org.**



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Howard County Facebook: [facebook.com/hocogov](https://www.facebook.com/hocogov)

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